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TITLE: STEEL FOR SOFT-NITRIDING, EXCELLENT IN COLD FORGEABILITY AND PITTING

RESISTANCE

PUBN-DATE: November 17, 1998

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

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COUNTRY

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### ABSTRACT:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a steel for soft-nitriding, excellent in cold forgeability and showing satisfactory pitting resistance even in the case of application to parts, such as gear, to be subjected to high bearing force.

SOLUTION: This steel for soft-nitriding is composed of a low carbon steel containing, by mass,  $\leq 2.0\%$  Cu and  $\leq 2.0\%$  (not including 0%) Ni and having  $\geq 50$ area% area ratio of ferrite and also having  $\leq 40~\mu m$  average grain size of ferrite. As a concrete chemical composition, it is preferable that this steel has a chemical composition consisting of  $\leq 0.2\%$  C,  $\leq 0.15\%$  Si,  $\leq 2.0\%$  Mn,  $\leq 0.015\%$  P,  $\leq 0.030\%$  S,  $\leq$ 2.0% Cu,  $\leq 2.0\%$  Ni,  $\leq 1.0\%$  Al,  $\leq 0.030\%$  N, and the balance Fe with inevitable impurities.

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# (54) 【発明の名称】 冷間鍛造性及び耐ビッチング性に優れた軟空化用鋼

# (57)【要約】

【課題】 冷間鍛造性に優れた軟窒化用鋼であって、高面圧のかかる歯車等の部品に適用した場合であっても十分な耐ビッチング性を発揮する軟窒化用鋼を提供する。 【解決手段】 低炭素鋼からなる軟窒化用鋼であって、 Cuを2.0%以下及びNiを2.0%以下含有すると共に、フェライトの面積率が50面積%以上であり、且つフェライトの平均粒径が40μm以下であることを要旨とするものである。具体的な化学成分としては、C:0.2%以下、Si:0.15%以下、Mn:2.0%以下,P:0.015%以下、S:0.030%以下、Cu:2.0%以下、Ni:2.0%以下,Al:1.0%以下、N:0.030%以下を含有し、残部がFe及び不可避的不純物からなることが好ましい。

### 【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 低炭素鋼からなる軟窒化用鋼であって、Cuを2.0%(質量%の意味:以下同じ)以下(0%を含まない)及びNiを2.0%以下(0%を含まない)含有すると共に、フェライトの面積率が50面積%以上であり、且つフェライトの平均粒径が40μm以下であることを特徴とする冷間鍛造性及び耐ビッチング性に優れた軟窒化用鋼。

【請求項2】 更に、A1:1.0%以下(0%を含まない),N:0.030%以下(0%を含まない)の 10いずれか1種以上を含有する請求項1に記載の軟窒化用鋼。

【請求項3】 更に、Cr:2.0%以下(0%を含まない), Mo:2.0%以下(0%を含まない), V:2.0%以下(0%を含まない), Nb:1.5%以下(0%を含まない)よりなる群から選ばれる1種以上を含有する請求項1または2に記載の軟窒化用鋼。 【請求項4】 更に、Tiを0.5%以下(0%を含まない)含有する請求項1~3のいずれかに記載の軟窒化

【請求項5】 更に、Ca:0.01%以下(0%を含まない), Zr:0.08%以下(0%を含まない), Te:0.08%以下(0%を含まない), Bi:0.08%以下(0%を含まない), Pb:0.30%以下(0%を含まない)よりなる群から選ばれる1種以上を含有する請求項1~4のいずれかに記載の軟窒化用鋼。【発明の詳細な説明】

### [0001]

用鋼。

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は冷間鍛造性及び耐ビッチング性に優れた軟窒化用鋼に関し、詳細には、軟窒 30 化処理前には優れた冷間鍛造性を示し、軟窒化処理後には優れた耐ビッチング性を発揮して、浸炭材と同等以上の耐摩耗性及び耐疲労性を有する軟窒化用鋼に関するものである。本発明の軟窒化用鋼は、例えば歯車、継ぎ手、シャフト等の様に、熱処理時に歪みが発生することを嫌う構造用部品に利用でき、特に使用時に高い面圧のかかる歯車等の部品に好適である。

### [0002]

【従来の技術】機械構造用部品の中でも歯車やシャフト等の様に耐摩耗性及び耐疲労性が要求される部品につい 40 ては、浸炭処理が施されて用いられている。浸炭処理は、鋼材をオーステナイト化温度以上に加熱し、炭素を鋼中に侵入拡散させ、その後急冷することによりマルテンサイト主体の組織とする方法であり、浸炭後の焼入れ時に大きな歪みが発生する。このような浸炭処理で発生する熱処理歪みを抑制する方法としては、窒化法がある。窒化法によればA1変態点温度以下の温度で表面硬化処理を行うことができ、一般的には、500~525℃のアンモニアガスまたは窒素ガスの雰囲気中で、鋼表面から内部に窒素を侵入させるという方法を採用するこ 50

とにより極めて高い表面硬さを得ることができる。但し、窒化処理には非常に長い時間が必要であり、例えば 0.2mm以上の硬化層深さを得るには50時間以上を必要とする。そこで処理時間の短縮を目的として軟窒化法が開発されている。軟窒化法は、溶融シアン塩浴(570℃)を用いて、この塩浴中に空気を吹き込みつつ窒化処理を行う方法である。また上記の様なシアン化合物を用いたくない場合には、RXガス(例えばCO:20%, H2:40%, N2:40%の組成を有するガス)とNH3 ガスを1:1の割合で混合した雰囲気中で窒化処理を行う方法を採用すればよいことが知られている。【0003】前記の様な窒化処理に用いる窒化用鋼としては、JIS規格鋼のSACM645があり、その他にも機械構造用合金鋼のSCM435や機械構造用炭素鋼であるS45C等に窒化処理が施されて用いられてい

【0004】但し、これらの窒化用鋼に対して、軟窒化処理を施した場合には、有効硬化層深さが浅く、高い面圧のかかる歯車等に用いると、鋼の硬化層部と芯部の境 界で剥離が生じ易いという問題を有していた。即ち、従来の窒化用鋼に軟窒化処理を施すと、浸炭材に比較して耐ピッチング性や耐スポーリング性等の耐面圧性(以下、代表的に耐ピッチング性という)が劣ることが指摘されていた。そこで軟窒化処理により浸炭材と同程度の耐ピッチング性を得ることが可能な軟窒化用鋼の開発を目的として種々の研究がなされており、例えば特開平6-264178号公報には、VやA1等の合金化元素を増量して添加することにより、SCM435やS45Cと比較して深い有効硬化層深さを得ることができ、浸炭 30 材と同程度の耐ピッチング性を有する軟窒化用鋼が開示されている。

【0005】ところで、切削加工工程を省略することに より構造用部品の製造コストを削減するという観点か ら、切削加工を行うことなく冷間鍛造により目的とする 形状に加工する所謂ネットシェイプ加工が可能な鋼材の 開発が要望されており、上記軟窒化用鋼に対しても、よ り優れた冷間鍛造性が要求されている。軟窒化用鋼の冷 間鍛造性の向上を目的とした技術としては、特開平5-171347号公報に開示されている軟窒化用鋼が挙げ られる。この技術によれば、圧延後の硬さをHv200 以下とし、軟窒化処理後の表面硬さをHv600以上、 有効硬化層深さを0.2mm以上にすることができ、優 れた冷間鍛造性を得ることができる。但し、上記軟窒化 用鋼の芯部硬さはHv200以下であることから芯部と 表層部の硬度差が大きく、特に高面圧のかかる歯車等の 部品に適用した場合には十分な耐ピッチング性が得られ なかった。

### [0006]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】本発明は上記事情に着 目してなされたものであり、冷間鍛造性に優れた軟窒化

用鋼であって、高面圧のかかる歯車等の部品に適用した 場合であっても十分な耐ビッチング性を発揮する軟窒化 用鋼を提供しようとするものである。

### [0007]

【課題を解決するための手段】上記課題を解決した本発 明とは、低炭素鋼からなる軟窒化用鋼であって、Cuを 2. 0%以下 (0%を含まない)及びNiを2. 0%以 下(0%を含まない)含有すると共に、フェライトの面 積率が50面積%以上であり、且つフェライトの平均粒 径が40μm以下であることを要旨とするものである。 【0008】具体的な化学成分としては、C:0.2% 以下(0%を含まない), Si: 0.15%以下(0% を含まない), Mn: 2. 0%以下(0%を含まな) い), P: 0. 015%以下(0%を含まない), S: 0.030%以下(0%を含まない), Cu:2.0% 以下(0%を含まない), Ni:2.0%以下(0%を 含まない), A1:1.0%以下(0%を含まない), N: 0. 030%以下(0%を含まない)を含有し、残 部がFe及び不可避的不純物からなることが好ましい。 い), Mo: 2. 0%以下(0%を含まない), V: 2.0%以下(0%を含まない), Nb:1.5%以下 (0%を含まない), TiをO. 5%以下(0%を含ま ない) よりなる群から選ばれる1種以上を含有させるこ とによりフェライト面積率を高めて冷間鍛造性の向上を 図ることができ、中でもTiの添加は耐ピッチング性を 向上させる上でも有効である。

【0010】またCa:0.01%以下(0%を含まない), Zr:0.08%以下(0%を含まない), Te:0.08%以下(0%を含まない), Bi:0.0 308%以下(0%を含まない), Pb:0.30%以下(0%を含まない)よりなる群から選ばれる1種以上を含有させることにより、被削性の向上を図ることができる。

【0011】尚、本発明においてフェライトとは、ポリゴナルフェライトまたはアシキュラーフェライトのことであり、フェライト相以外の組織を限定するものではなく、パーライト、ベイナイト、マルテンサイト等の単相または混合相のいずれでも良い。

# [0012]

【発明の実施の形態】本発明者らは、軟窒化処理前の冷間鍛造性を高めてネットシェイプ加工を可能にすると共に、軟窒化処理後には優れた耐ビッチング性を発揮する軟窒化用鋼の開発を目的として鋭意研究を重ねた結果、軟窒化処理前の冷間鍛造性を高めるには冷間鍛造前のフェライトの面積率を50面積%以上とすると共に、軟窒化処理後に十分な耐ビッチング性を得るには成分組成としてCuを含有させ、且つフェライトの平均粒径を40μm以下に制御すればよいことを見出し本発明に想到した。尚、化学成分としてCuを含有すると執情圧延時に

割れが発生し易いので、C u 添加による熱間圧延時の脆化を抑制する上で、N i を添加させることが必要である。

【0013】また軟窒化処理前の冷間鍛造性を高めるには、変形抵抗を大きくする元素の添加を抑制することが必要であり、具体的にはSi及びPの含有量を制限することにより変形抵抗を小さくし、S含有量を制限することにより変形能の向上を図ることが望ましい。更に、Cr, Mo, V, Nb, Ti等の炭窒化物形成元素を含有させれば、炭窒化物の凝集を促進して圧延材におけるフェライト面積率を高めることができるので、冷間鍛造性の向上に効果的である。

を含まない),Mn: 2. 0%以下 (0%を含まない),S: は、窒化処理後の芯部硬さを高めて芯部と表層部の硬度 0. 030%以下 (0%を含まない),Cu: 2. 0% 差を小さくすると共に、有効硬化層深さを深くすること が必要である。冷間鍛造性の観点からフェライト面積率 含まない),A1: 1. 0%以下 (0%を含まない), N: 0. 030%以下 (0%を含まない)を含まない)を含まない)を含まない)を含まない)を含まない)を含まない)を含まない)を含まない)を含まない)を含まない。 こ 2. 0%以下 (0%を含まない), Mo: 2. 0%以下 (0%を含まない),V: る。

【0015】また、窒化処理時において、CやNはフェライト粒界に沿って拡散するので、フェライトの平均粒径をできるだけ小さくすれば、CやNの拡散を促進することができ、短時間でより深い有効硬化層深さを得ることができる。具体的には、フェライトの平均粒径を40μm以下とすることが重要である。以下、本発明に係る軟窒化用鋼の化学成分に関して説明する。

【0016】C:0.2%以下(0%を含まない)

Cは、所望の芯部硬さと有効硬化層深さを得る為の必須 元素である。但し、多過ぎると冷間鍛造性が悪化するの で上限は0.2%とすることが望ましい。

【0017】Si:0.15%以下(0%を含まない) Siは、溶製時の脱酸剤として有用な元素であるが、多 過ぎると冷間鍛造時の変形抵抗が大きくなるので、上限 を0.15%とすることが望ましい。

【0018】Mn: 2.0%以下(0%を含まない) Mnは、溶製時の脱酸剤として有用な元素であるが、多過ぎると冷間鍛造性が低下するので、上限を2.0%と することが望ましく、1.5%以下であるとより望ましい。尚、Mn含有量の好ましい下限は0.3%である。【0019】P: 0.015%以下(0%を含まない) Pは冷間鍛造時の変形抵抗を高める元素である。従って、冷間鍛造性を確保する上で、上限を0.015%とすることが望ましく、0.010%以下であればより望ましい。

化処理後に十分な耐ビッチング性を得るには成分組成と してCuを含有させ、且つフェライトの平均粒径を40 μm以下に制御すればよいことを見出し本発明に想到し た。尚、化学成分としてCuを含有すると熱間圧延時に50 限は0.030%とすることが望ましい。冷間鍛造性を より一層向上させるには0.015%以下とすることが好ましく、0.010%以下であればより好ましい。【0021】Cu:2.0%以下(0%を含まない)Cuは窒化処理時における芯部の時効硬化に寄与する元素であり、本発明の軟窒化用鋼では必須元素である。但し、多過ぎると熱間脆性を生じて製造過程中に割れが発生するので、上限を2.0%に定めた。好ましくは、1.0%以下である。尚、時効硬化により十分な芯部硬さを得るには、0.2%以上含有させることが望ましい。

【0022】Ni:2.0%以下(0%を含まない) NiはCu添加による熱間脆性を抑制するのに有効な元素であり、本発明の軟窒化用鋼では必須元素である。但し、過剰に添加すると切削性が急激に低下するので上限は2.0%とすることが必要である。

【0023】A1:1.0%以下(0%を含まない) A1は窒化処理時に侵入してくるNと化合物を形成して、表面硬さを上げるのに有効な元素である。但し、多過ぎると生産性が悪化しコストの増加を招くので1.0%を上限に設定した。好ましくは、0.5%以下である。尚、十分な表面硬さを得るには0.015%以上添加することが望ましい。

【0024】N:0.030%以下(0%を含まない) Nは鋼中でA1やV, Ti, Nb等と結合して窒化物を 生成し、結晶粒の粗大化を抑制する効果を発揮する。但 し、多過ぎても効果は飽和するので、0.03%を上限 に設定した。尚、十分な効果を発揮させるには、0.0 03%以上含有させることが望ましい。

【0025】本発明の軟窒化用鋼は、上記の元素を含有して残部がFe及び不可避的不純物であることが推奨さ 30 れるが、以下に説明する理由から、更に、Cr, Mo, V, Nb, Ti, Ca, Zr, Te, Bi, Pbのいずれか1種以上を添加することが望ましい。

【0026】Cr:2.0%以下(0%を含まない)

Mo: 2. 0%以下 (0%を含まない)

V:2.0%以下(0%を含まない)

Nb: 1.5%以下(0%を含まない)

Cr, Mo, V, Nbはいずれも炭窒化物形成元素であり、圧延材で炭窒化物の凝集を促進することによりフェライト面積率を高める作用を有するので、添加すること 40 により冷間鍛造性の向上を図ることができる。

【0027】上記炭窒化物形成元素の中でも、Crは窒化処理時に炭窒化物を形成し、表面硬さを高める上でも有効である。但し、多過ぎるとCrが粒界に偏析し、粒界強度を低下させることにより朝性を劣化させるので、上限は2.0%とすることが望ましい。

【0028】また、Moを含有させることにより冷間鍛造性を向上させる効果は2.0%を超えると飽和してくるのでMoの含有量は2.0%以下で十分である。

【0029】Vは冷間鍛造性を向上させる効果に加え、

窒化処理時にC及びNと結合して炭窒化物を生成し、表面硬さを高めると共に、有効硬化層深さを深くする元素である。但し、多過ぎると被削性の低下を招くので、上限は2.0%とすることが望ましい。

【0030】NbもVと同様、冷間鍛造性を向上させる 効果に加え、窒化処理時にC及びNと結合して炭窒化物 を生成し、表面硬さを高めると共に、有効硬化層深さを 深くする元素である。更に、結晶粒の微細化にも有効で ある。但し、多過ぎても冷間鍛造性の劣化を招くので、 10 上限は1.5%とすることが望ましい。

【0031】Ti:0.5%以下(0%を含まない) Tiも炭窒化物形成元素であり、圧延材で炭窒化物の凝集を促進することによりフェライト面積率を高め、冷間鍛造性の向上に寄与する。しかも、Nと結合してTi窒化物を生成し、結晶粒の微細化にも有効であることから耐ピッチング性の向上にも効果的である。但し、多過ぎるとピッチング寿命が短くなると共に、被削性が低下するので上限を0.5%とすることが望ましく、0.1%以下であることがより望ましい。尚、Ti添加の効果を20有効に発揮させるには、0.005%以上添加することが望ましい。

【0032】Ca:0.01%以下(0%を含まない)

Zr:0.08%以下(0%を含まない)

Te:0.08%以下(0%を含まない)

Bi:0.08%以下(0%を含まない)

Pb: 0.30%以下(0%を含まない)

Ca, Zr, Te, Bi, Pbはいずれも被削性を向上させる効果を有する元素である。Caは添加することにより硬質介在物を軟質な介在物で包むことができ被削性が向上する。但し、0.01%を超えると効果は飽和するので、0.01%以下の添加で十分である。Zrは、被削性の向上効果に加え、MnSを球状化させる作用も有するので鋼材の異方性を改善する上でも有効である。但し、0.08%を超えると効果は飽和するので、0.08%以下の添加で十分である。Te及びBiの被削性向上効果も、夫々0.08%を超えると飽和するので、0.08%以下の添加で十分である。Pbは被削性を向上させる上で有効な元素であるが、0.30%を超えるとピッチング寿命が短くなり、疲労強度が低下するので0.30%を上限とすることが望ましい。

【0033】更に、本発明の軟窒化用鋼に重要な組織であるフェライトの面積率と平均粒径の限定理由について説明する。

フェライト面積率≥50面積%

窒化処理前の冷間鍛造性を高めるためには、冷間鍛造前の組織をフェライト主体の組織とすることが必要であり、少なくとも面積率で50面積%以上が不可欠であり、70面積%以上であれば好ましく、80%面積以上であればより好ましい。

50 【0034】フェライト面積率は、例えば組織を光学顕

微鏡を用いて組織観察を行い、画像解析により視野内に おけるフェライト部分の占有面積率を求めればよい。後 述の実施例では光学顕微鏡により400倍で任意に5視 野の組織観察を行い、その平均値をフェライト面積率と した。

【0035】フェライト平均粒径が40μm以下 窒化処理時、C及びNはフェライト粒界に沿って優先的 に拡散するため、フェライト粒が小さい程、窒化処理時 にC及びNの拡散が促進される。即ち、フェライトの平 均粒径を小さくすることによりC及びNの拡散が促進さ 10 実施例1 れ、短時間で深い有効硬化層深さを得ることができる。 この効果を得るにはフェライト平均粒径を40μm以下 とする必要があり、35μm以下であると望ましい。 【0036】但し、フェライト粒径が20μm未満の場 合、圧延時にCuが析出し、時効処理により硬さ上昇に 有効に寄与するCu量が少なくなる。この場合には、圧 延後に折出したCuを鋼中に再度溶解させる溶体化処理 を施した後に、冷間鍛造を行うことにより、窒化処理時 に鋼中に微細なCuを析出させることができ、冷間鍛造 性を確保したままで芯部硬さを高めることができる。 【0037】尚、本発明において、フェライトの平均粒 径とは、以下の計算式で算出されたフェライト粒径の平 均値であり、例えば後述の実施例では、光学顕微鏡を用 いてランダムに5視野の組織観察(倍率:400倍)を 行い、1視野当り10か所のフェライト粒径を測定し、 平均化することによりフェライト平均粒径を測定した。

フェライト粒径=1/2 (フェライト粒の長径+短径)

【0038】またフェライト平均粒径を40µm以下に

するには、圧延前の加熱温度を1100℃以上とし、圧

下率を30%以上、圧延仕上げ温度950℃で圧延を行 い、圧延仕上げ後の冷却速度を0.3~100℃/sec に制御する方法を採用すればよい。

【0039】以下、本発明を実施例によって更に詳細に 説明するが、下記実施例は本発明を限定する性質のもの ではなく、前・後記の主旨に微して設計変更することは いずれも本発明の技術的範囲に含まれるものである。

[0040]

### 【実施例】

表1に成分組成を示すNo. 1~23の鋼材を用い、冷 間鍛造性評価の指標として変形抵抗と割れ発生加工率を 調べた。変形抵抗測定用の試験片は、上記鋼材を夫々5 Okg溶製しゅ35mmに熱間鍛造した後、焼きならし 処理(900℃で1時間加熱後、空冷)を行い、次いで φ20mm×30mmに機械加工した丸棒を用い、割れ 発生加工率の測定は、図1に示す形状に機械加工した試 験片を用いた。但し、No. 14及びNo. 15の試験 片には、上記焼きならし処理に代えて900℃で1時間 20 加熱した後水冷する溶体化処理を施し、No. 16及び No. 17の試験片には、上記焼きならし処理に代え て、900℃で1時間加熱した後に衝風冷却して機械加 工を行い、No. 22及びNo. 23の試験片は、上記 焼きならし処理後、球状化処理を施して機械加工を行っ た。変形抵抗の値と割れ発生加工率は、各鋼材のフェラ イト面積率及びフェライト平均粒径と共に、表1に示 す。

[0041]

【表1】

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ч	

					_
割れ発生	<b>%</b>		N R 옵 슈 S B	2 2 2 2 N N N N	
<b>粉形</b> 箱 拉	(N/mm*)	658 643 657 657 657 610 680 680 603 603 603 603 603 603 603 603 603 60	743 826 718 710 640	520 690 655	
7174	†-1594⊻(≇ (μπ)	22 22 23 23 23 23 23 23 23 23 23 23 23 2	22 22 23 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25	25	
強つの語	*1	0.0.0.0.2.2.2.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0	8 8 4 4 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	p. I I	14.5
7.54	(%)	5 5 4 5 5 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	66 86 66	は事なか
	その街	Cr: 0. 82 Mo: 0. 52 V: 0. 48 Nb: 0. 036 Cr: 0. 97, V: 0. 10 Cr: 0. 97, V: 0. 10 Mb: 0. 020, Ca: 0. 006 Mb: 0. 031, T1: 0. 02 T1: 0. 02 V: 0. 33, B: 0. 0015 Nb: 0. 036, T1: 0. 03, B: 0. 0016	Ka: 0. 21 Cr: 0. 89, Mo: 0. 45	Cr:0.99	表中の「残りの組織」の値において、Pはパーライト、Bはペイナイト、Mはマルチンサイトも半ヶ青は十名
	NI	0.21 0.15 0.15 0.15 0.15 0.15 0.05 0.05 0.15 0.1	0. 22	·	イングサ
(%)	Z	0.015 0.016 0.016 0.010 0.000 0.011 0.012 0.012 0.012 0.005 0.005 0.005	0.012 0.020 0.012	0.011	7 Y
成分組成 (資量%)	A 1	0.035 0.035 0.035 0.035 0.035 0.035 0.035 0.035 0.035 0.035 0.035 0.035 0.035 0.035 0.035 0.035	0.032	0.021 0.028 0.032	けバージ
成分	η	0.61 0.03 0.03 0.03 0.03 0.03 0.03 0.03 0.0	0.00 0.30 0.32 84 0.32 84	0.01 0.02 0.01	j.
	S	0.003 0.003 0.003 0.008 0.008 0.008 0.004 0.004 0.004 0.004 0.005 0.005	0.012 0.008 0.005 0.007	0.013 0.015 0.005	値におい
	D.	0.003 0.003 0.003 0.003 0.005 0.002 0.002 0.002 0.002 0.003 0.003 0.003	0.003 0.013 0.075 0.076	0.008 0.012 0.008	組織しの
	Mn	1.24 1.154 1.155 1.155 1.156 1.256 1.256 1.30 1.30	1.85 0.85 1.68 1.26	0.39 0.78 0.87	強りの
	S i	0.05 0.03 0.03 0.03 0.03 0.03 0.03 0.03	0.12 0.07 0.86 0.12 0.04	0.03 0.21 0.25	) (Oth
	υ	0.13 0.12 0.14 0.07 0.10 0.10 0.10 0.08 0.08	0.19 0.18 0.17 0.19 0.18	0.11 0.45 0.20	1.1.4
	N O		1 6 1 7 1 8 1 9 2 0	21 22 23	
Ż	102	本執即國	共政府	放来例	

【0042】No. 21~23は従来材であって、N o. 21はJIS規格鋼であるSWRCH10, No. 22はS45C球状化材, No. 23はSCr420球 状化材であり、いずれも加工率60%における変形抵抗 は700N/mm²未満であると共に、割れ発生加工率 が60%以上であり、冷間鍛造性に優れている。

【0043】No. 1~15は、本発明に係る鋼材であ り、いずれも上記従来鋼と同様、加工率60%における 変形抵抗は700N/mm² 未満であると共に、割れ発

# \*る。

【0044】No. 16及びNo. 17は、フェライト 面積率が低過ぎる場合の比較例であり、変形抵抗が70 ON/mm²以上であると共に、割れ発生加工率が60 %未満であり冷間鍛造性が乏しい。No. 18は、Si 量が多過ぎる場合の比較例であり、変形抵抗が700N /mm²以上と大きく、割れ発生加工率も低い。No. 19はP量が多過ぎる場合の比較例であり、割れ発生加 工率は60%以上であるが、変形抵抗が700N/mm 生加工率が60%以上であり、冷間鍛造性に優れてい \*50 2以上と大きくなっている。No.20は、S量が多過

ぎる場合の比較例であり、変形抵抗は700N/mm² 未満であるが、割れ発生加工率が低い。

### 【0045】実施例2

表2に成分組成を示す鋼材を夫々50kg溶製しゅ65mmに熱間鍛造した後、焼きならし処理(900℃で1時間加熱後、空冷)を施し、次いで機械加工を行いゅ60mm×5mmで仕上げ面粗さが2Sのスラスト型転動疲労試験用試験片を作製した。但し、No.14及びNo.15の試験片には、上記焼きならし処理に代えて900℃で1時間加熱した後水冷する溶体化処理を施し、No.16の試験片には、上記焼きならし処理に代えて、900℃で1時間加熱した後に衝風冷却して機械加工を行い、No.22及びNo.23の試験片は、上記焼きならし処理後、球状化処理を施して機械加工を行った。

【0046】次にNo. 23以外の試験片は、RXガス:NH3=1:1のガス雰囲気中において570℃で8時間加熱する軟窒化処理を施し、空冷した。No. 23の試験片は、925℃で3時間の浸炭処理を施し、油焼入れ(130℃)を行った後、180℃で2時間の焼20戻し処理を行った。

【0047】以上の軟窒化処理又は浸炭処理を施した 後、芯部硬さ及び有効硬化層深さを測定すると共に、ス ラスト型転動疲労試験機を用いて面圧4000N/mm <sup>2</sup> で転動疲労寿命を測定した。測定結果は、各鋼材のフ ェライト面積率及びフェライト平均粒径と共に、表2に 示す。

【0048】 【表2】 12

_		,		····
E BERT	(D)	25.25.25 20.25.20 20.	0.1×10 0.6×10 2.0×10	0.2.1.1.0.0 0.2.2.1.0.0 0.0.1.2.2.2.0 0.0.1.2.2.2.0 0.0.1.2.2.0.0
が発	E (FE)	0.00 0.02 0.03 0.03 0.03 0.03 0.03	0.05	0.15 0.10 0.10 0.14 0.23
松	¥ <b>€</b>	221 221 221 212 212 225 225	120 154 275	218 220 220 222 130 176
72.71	明ながく (ロゴ)	1288888	15	444448
1,57	<b>X</b>	9 6 8 6 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8	880	258858
	半の者	Cr: 0.97, V: 0.10 Nb: 0.020, Ch: 0.005 Nb: 0.031, Ti: 0.02 V: 0.33, B: 0.0012 Nb: 0.035, Ti: 0.03, B: 0.0015	CF:0.99	Mo:0.21 Cr:0.35 Mo:0.55 V:0.46 Cr:0.68
	1 N	0.25 0.25 0.50 0.12 0.15 0.15		0.58
(#W)	Z	0.012 0.012 0.008 0.008 0.012 0.013	0.011 0.008 0.010	0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000
成分組成 (質量%)	14	0.035 0.053 0.035 0.032 0.028 0.028	0.021 0.028 0.032	0.032 0.016 0.001 0.030 0.016 0.035
数	ກວ	0.55 0.55 0.30 0.35 0.35	0.00	0.45 0.45 0.49 0.11 0.00
	S	0.005 0.004 0.008 0.008 0.005	0.013 0.015 0.005	0.012 0.005 0.006 0.008 0.008
	Ч	0.003 0.005 0.002 0.003	0.008 0.012 0.008	0.008 0.005 0.005 0.002 0.002
	Mn	1.25 1.25 1.25 1.30	0.39 0.78 0.87	1.85 1.85 1.22 1.01 1.45 1.51
	S i	0.05 0.08 0.05 0.05 0.05 0.10	0.03 0.21 0.25	0.12 0.08 0.07 0.08 0.11
	ပ	0.09	0.11 0.45 0.20	0.19 0.12 0.18 0.15 0.07
	No	100 110 121 100	222	100000 840008
ι .	<b>4</b> 0	本発明院	徒朱夙	比较函

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【0049】No.23はJIS規格鋼SCr420に 浸炭処理を施した従来の浸炭材である。本発明に係る窒 化用鋼(No.1,9,10,12,14,15)は、 いずれも芯部硬さがHv200以上であると共に、有効 硬化層深さが0.2mm以上であり、しかも上記浸炭材 (No.23)と同等以上の転動疲労寿命を有してい る。換言すれば、本発明の軟窒化用鋼は耐ビッチング性 に優れ、しかも耐疲労性が高い。従来材であるSWRC H10(No.21)及びS45C球状化材(No.2 502)は、いずれも芯部硬さが低く、転動疲労寿命が短

61.

【0050】No. 16は、フェライト面積率が低く、 且つフェライトの平均粒径が大き過ぎる場合の比較例で あり、有効硬化層深さが0.2mm以下であって転動疲 労寿命が短い。No. 24はフェライトの平均粒径が大 き過ぎる場合の比較例であり、有効硬化層深さが0.2 mm以下であって転動疲労寿命が短い。No. 25はA 1量が少な過ぎ、No. 26はN量が少な過ぎる場合の 比較例であり、フェライトの平均粒径が大きくなり過 ぎ、有効硬化層深さが0.2mm以下であって転動疲労 10 鋼が提供できることとなった。 寿命が短い。No. 27はCu量が多過ぎる場合の比較 例であり、芯部硬さが低いと共に、フェライトの平均粒 径が大きくなり過ぎ、有効硬化層深さが0.2mm以下 であって転動疲労寿命が短い。No. 28は、Cuを含

有していない場合の比較例であり、芯部硬さが低く、転 動疲労寿命が短い。この様に、No. 16及びNo. 2 4~28の比較例は、いずれも耐ピッチング性が十分で はなく、耐疲労性も本発明鋼ほどには高くない。

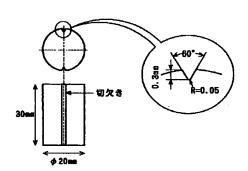
### [0051]

【発明の効果】本発明は以上の様に構成されているの で、冷間鍛造性に優れた軟窒化用鋼であって、高面圧の かかる歯車等の部品に適用した場合であっても十分な耐 ピッチング性を発揮し、しかも耐疲労性も高い軟窒化用

### 【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】割れ発生限界試験用の試験片形状を示す説明図 である。

【図1】



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# **CLAIMS**

# [Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] Steel for soft nitriding excellent in the formability in cold forging and pitching-proof nature which are characterized by being the steel for soft nitriding which consists of low-carbon steel, for the rate of area of a ferrite being more than 50 area % while carrying out content of below 2.0% (semantics of mass %: it is below the same) (0% is not included), and the nickel for Cu 2.0% or less (0% is not included), and the mean diameter of a ferrite being 40 micrometers or less.

[Claim 2] Furthermore, less than [ aluminum:1.0% ] (0% is not included), N: Steel for soft nitriding containing 0.030% or less (0% is not included) of one or more sorts [ any ] according to claim 1. [Claim 3] Furthermore, less than [ Cr:2.0% ] (0% is not included), less than [ Mo:2.0% ] (0% is not included), V: Steel for soft nitriding containing one or more sorts chosen from the group which consists of less than [ Nb:1.5% ] (0% is not included) 2.0% or less (0% is not included) according to claim 1 or 2.

[Claim 4] Furthermore, steel for soft nitriding according to claim 1 to 3 which carries out content of Ti 0.5% or less (0% is not included).

[Claim 5] Furthermore, steel for soft nitriding containing one or more sorts chosen from the group which consists of less than [ calcium:0.01% ] (0% is not included), less than [ Zr:0.08% ] (0% is not included), less than [ Te:0.08% ] (0% is not included), less than [ Bi:0.08% ] (0% is not included), and less than [ Pb:0.30% ] (0% is not included) according to claim 1 to 4.

[Translation done.]

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# **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

[Detailed Description of the Invention] [0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention shows the formability in cold forging which was excellent before soft nitriding processing to a detail about the steel for soft nitriding excellent in formability in cold forging and pitching-proof nature, demonstrates the outstanding pitching-proof nature after soft nitriding processing, and relates to the steel for soft nitriding which has the abrasion resistance and the fatigue resistance more than carburization material and an EQC. The steel for soft nitriding of this invention is suitable for components, such as a gearing which can use for the structural steel worker components which dislike that distortion occurs, and high planar pressure requires like a gearing, a splice, and a shaft especially at the time of use at the time of heat treatment.

[Description of the Prior Art] About the components with which abrasion resistance and fatigue resistance are demanded like a gearing or a shaft also in machine structural steel worker components, carburization processing is performed and it is used. Steel materials are heated beyond austenitizing temperature, carburization processing carries out invasion diffusion of the carbon into steel, by quenching after that, it is the approach of considering as a martensite subject's organization, and a big distortion generates it at the time of hardening after carburization. There is nitriding as an approach of controlling heat treatment distortion generated in such carburization processing. According to nitriding, it is A1. Surface hardening can be performed at the temperature below transformation point temperature, and very high surface hardness can be obtained by generally adopting the approach of making nitrogen trespass upon the interior from a steel front face in the 500-525-degree C ambient atmosphere of ammonia gas or nitrogen gas. However, very long time amount is required for nitriding treatment, for example, 50 hours or more are needed for obtaining a hardening layer depth of 0.2mm or more. Then, soft nitriding is developed for the purpose of compaction of the processing time. Soft nitriding is an approach of performing nitriding treatment, blowing air into this salt bath using a melting cyanogen salt bath (570 degrees C). Moreover, when you do not want to use the above cyanides, it is RX gas (for example, gas which has CO:20%, H2:40%, and N2:40% of presentation), and NH3. It is known that what is necessary is just to adopt the approach of performing nitriding treatment in the ambient atmosphere which mixed gas at a rate of 1:1.

[0003] As steel for nitriding used for the above nitriding treatment, there is SACM645 of JIS steel, in addition nitriding treatment is performed to S45C which is SCM435 and machine structural carbon steel of machine structural steel worker alloy steel, and it is used.

[0004] However, when soft nitriding processing was performed to such steel for nitriding, effective case depth hardended by carburizing treatment was shallow, and when used for the gearing which high planar pressure requires, it had the problem of being easy to produce exfoliation on the boundary of the hardening layer and core part of steel. That is, when soft nitriding processing was performed to the conventional steel for nitriding, it was pointed out that planar pressure-proof nature (typically henceforth pitching-proof nature), such as pitching-proof nature and spalling resistance, is inferior as compared

with carburization material. Then, various researches are made for the purpose of development of the steel for soft nitriding which can obtain pitching-proof nature comparable as carburization material by soft nitriding processing. For example, by increasing the quantity of alloying elements, such as V and aluminum, and adding, in JP,6-264178,A, deep effective case depth hardended by carburizing treatment can be obtained as compared with SCM435 or S45C, and the steel for soft nitriding which has pitching-proof nature comparable as carburization material is indicated.

[0005] By the way, development of the steel materials in which the so-called net shape processing which processes the target configuration with cold forging is possible is demanded from a viewpoint of reducing the manufacturing cost of structural steel worker components by skipping a cutting process, without performing cutting, and the more excellent formability in cold forging is demanded also from the above-mentioned steel for soft nitriding. As a technique aiming at improvement in the formability in cold forging of the steel for soft nitriding, the steel for soft nitriding currently indicated by JP,5-171347,A is mentioned. According to this technique, hardness after rolling can be set to 200 or less Hv, surface hardness after soft nitriding processing can be set to 600 or more Hv(s), effective case depth hardended by carburizing treatment can be set to 0.2mm or more, and the outstanding formability in cold forging can be obtained. However, since the core part hardness of the above-mentioned steel for soft nitriding was 200 or less Hv, its hardness difference of a core part and the surface section was large, and when it applied to components, such as a gearing which especially high planar pressure requires, sufficient pitching-proof nature was not obtained.

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] This invention is made paying attention to the above-mentioned situation, it is the steel for soft nitriding excellent in formability in cold forging, and even if it is the case where it applies to components, such as a gearing which high planar pressure requires, it tends to offer the steel for soft nitriding which demonstrates sufficient pitching-proof nature.

[0007]

[Means for Solving the Problem] Let it be a summary for this invention which solved the above-mentioned technical problem to be steel for soft nitriding which consists of low-carbon steel, for the rate of area of a ferrite to be more than 50 area %, while carrying out content of 2.0% or less (0% is not included) and the nickel for Cu 2.0% or less (0% is not included), and for the mean particle diameter of a ferrite to be 40 micrometers or less.

[0008] As a concrete chemical entity, C:0.2% or less (0% is not included), Si: Less than [ 0.15% ] (0% is not included), less than [ Mn:2.0% ] (0% is not included), P:0.015% or less (0% is not included), S:0.030% or less (0% is not included), Cu: It is desirable that contain less than [ 2.0% ] (0% is not included), less than [ nickel:2.0% ] (0% is not included), less than [ aluminum:1.0% ] (0% is not included), and N:0.030% or less (0% is not included), and the remainder consists of Fe and an unescapable impurity.

[0009] Furthermore, less than [Cr:2.0%] (0% is not included), less than [Mo:2.0%] (0% is not included), V:2.0% or less (0% is not included), less than [Nb:1.5%] (0% is not included), The rate of ferrite area can be raised by making one or more sorts chosen from the group which consists of 0.5% or less (0% is not included) in Ti contain, improvement in formability in cold forging can be aimed at, and addition of inside or Ti is effective also when raising pitching-proof nature.

[0010] Moreover, improvement in machinability can be aimed at by making one or more sorts chosen from the group which consists of less than [ calcium:0.01% ] (0% is not included), less than [ Zr:0.08% ] (0% is not included), less than [ Bi:0.08% ] (0% is not included), and less than [ Pb:0.30% ] (0% is not included) contain.

[0011] In addition, in this invention, it may be the thing of the poly GONARU ferrite or a reed KYURA ferrite, and any of single phase, such as a pearlite, bainite, and martensite, or a mixed phase are [ a ferrite may not limit the organization of those other than a ferrite phase, and ] sufficient as it. [0012]

[Embodiment of the Invention] While this invention persons raise the formability in cold forging before soft nitriding processing and enable net shape processing While carrying out the rate of area of the

ferrite before cold forging to more than 50 area % for raising the formability in cold forging before soft nitriding processing after soft nitriding processing as a result of repeating research wholeheartedly for the purpose of development of the steel for soft nitriding which demonstrates the outstanding pitching-proof nature It hit on an idea of what is necessary being to make it contain Cu as a component presentation to obtain pitching-proof nature sufficient after soft nitriding processing, and just to control the mean particle diameter of a ferrite to 40 micrometers or less to header this invention. In addition, since it will be easy to generate a crack at the time of hot rolling if Cu is contained as a chemical entity, when controlling the embrittlement at the time of the hot rolling by Cu addition, it is required to make nickel add.

[0013] Moreover, in order to raise the formability in cold forging before soft nitriding processing, it is required to control addition of the element which enlarges deformation resistance, and it is desirable by specifically restricting the content of Si and P to aim at improvement in deformability by making deformation resistance small and restricting S content. Furthermore, if carbon nitride formation elements, such as Cr, Mo, V, Nb, and Ti, are made to contain, since it can promote condensation of carbon nitride and the rate of ferrite area in rolled stock can be raised, it is effective for improvement in formability in cold forging.

[0014] In order to secure sufficient pitching-proof nature, while raising the core part hardness after nitriding treatment and, making small the hardness difference of a core part and the surface section on the other hand, it is required to make deep effective case depth hardended by carburizing treatment. In order to raise core part hardness in the organization which is doing the rate of ferrite area to more than 50 area % from a viewpoint of formability in cold forging, it is important to make Cu which is an agehardening element contain. That is, core part hardness is securable by depositing detailed Cu in steel at the time of nitriding treatment.

[0015] Moreover, since C and N are diffused along a ferrite grain boundary at the time of nitriding treatment, if mean particle diameter of a ferrite is made as small as possible, diffusion of C or N can be promoted and deeper effective case depth hardended by carburizing treatment can be obtained in a short time. Specifically, it is important to set mean particle diameter of a ferrite to 40 micrometers or less. Hereafter, the chemical entity of the steel for soft nitriding concerning this invention is explained. [0016] C:0.2%or less (0% is not included) C is an essential element for obtaining desired core part hardness and effective case depth hardended by carburizing treatment. However, since formability in cold forging will get worse if many [ too ], as for an upper limit, considering as 0.2% is desirable. [0017] Si: Since the deformation resistance at the time of cold forging will become large 0.15% or less (0% is not included) if many [ too ] although Si is an element useful as a deoxidizer at the time of an ingot, it is desirable to make an upper limit into 0.15%.

[0018] Mn: Although 2.0% or less (0% is not included) Mn is an element useful as a deoxidizer at the time of an ingot, since formability in cold forging will fall if many [ too ], it is desirable to make an upper limit into 2.0%, and it is more desirable in it being 1.5% or less. In addition, the minimum with desirable Mn content is 0.3%.

[0019] P:0.015%or less (0% is not included) P is an element which raises the deformation resistance at the time of cold forging. Therefore, when securing formability in cold forging, it is desirable to make an upper limit into 0.015%, and it is more desirable if it is 0.010% or less.

[0020] Although it is the element which S:0.030% or less (0% is not included) S generates MnS, and is contributed to improvement in machinability, since the deformability at the time of cold forging will fall if many [ too ], as for an upper limit, considering as 0.030% is desirable. It is desirable to make formability in cold forging into 0.015% or less to make it improve further, and it is more desirable if it is 0.010% or less.

[0021] Cu: Less than [2.0%] (0% is not included) Cu is an element contributed to the age-hardening of the core part at the time of nitriding treatment, and is an essential element in the steel for soft nitriding of this invention. However, since hot shortness was produced and the crack occurred in the manufacture process when many [too], the upper limit was defined to 2.0%. Preferably, it is 1.0% or less. In addition, in order to obtain sufficient core part hardness by the age-hardening, it is desirable to make it

contain 0.2% or more.

[0022] nickel: 2.0% or less (0% is not included) nickel is an element effective in controlling the hot shortness by Cu addition, and is an essential element in the steel for soft nitriding of this invention. However, since cutting ability will fall rapidly if it adds superfluously, an upper limit needs to consider as 2.0%.

[0023] aluminum: It is an element effective in forming N and the compound with which aluminum invades 1.0% or less (0% is not included) at the time of nitriding treatment, and raising surface hardness. However, since productivity got worse and the increment in cost was caused when many [ too ], 1.0% was set as the upper limit. Preferably, it is 0.5% or less. In addition, for obtaining sufficient surface hardness, adding 0.015% or more is desirable.

[0024] N combines with aluminum, V, Ti, Nb, etc. in steel N:0.030% or less (0% is not included), a nitride is generated, and the effectiveness which controls big and rough-ization of crystal grain is demonstrated. However, since effectiveness was saturated even if many [ too ], 0.03% was set as the upper limit. In addition, in order to demonstrate sufficient effectiveness, it is desirable to make it contain 0.003% or more.

[0025] Although the above-mentioned element is contained and it is recommended that the remainders are Fe and an unescapable impurity, as for the steel for soft nitriding of this invention, it is desirable to add any one or more sorts of Cr, Mo, V, Nb, Ti, calcium, Zr, Te, Bi, and the Pb further from the reason for explaining below.

[0026] Each of Cr:2.0% or less (0% is not included) Mo:2.0% or less (0% is not included) V:2.0% or less (0% is not included) Nb:1.5% or less (0% is not included) Cr(s), and Mo, V and Nb(s) are carbon nitride formation elements. Since it has the operation which raises the rate of ferrite area by promoting condensation of carbon nitride by rolled stock, improvement in formability in cold forging can be aimed at by adding.

[0027] Also in the above-mentioned carbon nitride formation element, Cr is effective, also when forming carbon nitride and raising surface hardness at the time of nitriding treatment. However, since toughness will be degraded when Cr segregates to a grain boundary and reduces grain boundary reinforcement if many [ too ], as for an upper limit, considering as 2.0% is desirable.

[0028] Moreover, since it will be saturated if the effectiveness of raising formability in cold forging by making Mo containing exceeds 2.0%, 2.0% or less is enough as the content of Mo.

[0029] It is an element which makes deep effective case depth hardended by carburizing treatment while in addition to the effectiveness of raising formability in cold forging V combines with C and N at the time of nitriding treatment, generates carbon nitride and raises surface hardness. However, since the fall of machinability will be caused if many [ too ], as for an upper limit, considering as 2.0% is desirable. [0030] While in addition to the effectiveness that Nb also raises formability in cold forging like V combining with C and N at the time of nitriding treatment, generating carbon nitride and raising surface hardness, it is the element which makes deep effective case depth hardended by carburizing treatment. Furthermore, it is effective also in detailed-izing of crystal grain. However, since degradation of formability in cold forging is caused even if many [ too ], as for an upper limit, considering as 1.5% is desirable.

[0031] Ti: 0.5% or less (0% is not included) Ti is also a carbon nitride formation element, raises the rate of ferrite area by promoting condensation of carbon nitride by rolled stock, and contributes to improvement in formability in cold forging. And it combines with N and Ti nitride is generated, and since it is effective also in detailed-izing of crystal grain, it is effective also for improvement in pitching-proof nature. However, since machinability will fall while a pitching life becomes short if many [ too ], it is desirable to make an upper limit into 0.5%, and it is more desirable that it is 0.1% or less. In addition, in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of Ti addition effectively, adding 0.005% or more is desirable.

[0032] calcium: Each of less than [ less than / less than / less than / 0.01% / (0% is not included) Zr:0.08% / (0% is not included) Te:0.08% / (0% is not included) Bi:0.08% / (0% is not included) Pb:0.30% ] (0% is not included) calcium, and Zr, Te, Bi(s) and Pb(s) are elements which have

the effectiveness of raising machinability. By adding, calcium can wrap hard inclusion in elasticity inclusion, and its machinability improves. However, since effectiveness will be saturated if it exceeds 0.01%, 0.01% or less of addition is enough. Zr is effective also when improving the anisotropy of steel materials, since it also has the operation which makes MnS spheroidize in addition to the improvement effectiveness of machinability. However, since effectiveness will be saturated if it exceeds 0.08%, 0.08% or less of addition is enough. Since the improvement effectiveness in machinability of Te and Bi will also be saturated if it exceeds 0.08%, respectively, 0.08% or less of addition is enough as it. Although Pb is an element effective when raising machinability, since a pitching life will become short and fatigue strength will fall if it exceeds 0.30%, it is desirable to make 0.30% into an upper limit. [0033] Furthermore, the reason for limitation of the rate of area and mean particle diameter of a ferrite which is an organization important for the steel for soft nitriding of this invention is explained. It is required to consider the organization before cold forging as a ferrite subject's organization, and in order to raise the formability in cold forging before rate of ferrite area >=50 area % nitriding treatment, at least, more than 50 area % is indispensable at the rate of area, and if it is more than 80% area, it is more desirable [ if it is more than 70 area %, it is desirable, and ].

[0034] The rate of ferrite area performs organization observation for an organization using an optical microscope, and should just ask for the rate of occupancy area of the ferrite part within a visual field by image analysis. In the below-mentioned example, the optical microscope performed organization observation of five visual fields to arbitration by 400 times, and the average was made into the rate of ferrite area.

[0035] Diffusion of C and N is promoted at the time of nitriding treatment, so that a ferrite grain is small, since ferrite mean particle diameter diffuses C and N preferentially along a ferrite grain boundary at the time of 40-micrometer or less nitriding treatment. That is, by making mean particle diameter of a ferrite small, diffusion of C and N is promoted and deep effective case depth hardended by carburizing treatment can be obtained in a short time. It is desirable in it being necessary to set ferrite mean particle diameter to 40 micrometers or less, for acquiring this effectiveness, and it being 35 micrometers or less. [0036] However, when ferrite particle size is less than 20 micrometers, Cu deposits at the time of rolling and the amount of Cu(s) which contributes effective in a hardness rise by aging treatment decreases. In this case, after performing solution treatment which dissolves again Cu which deposited after rolling into steel, core part hardness can be raised by performing cold forging, being able to deposit detailed Cu and securing formability in cold forging into steel, at the time of nitriding treatment.

[0037] In addition, in this invention, the mean particle diameter of a ferrite was the average of the ferrite particle size computed in the following formulas, for example, in the below-mentioned example, organization observation (scale factor: 400 times) of five visual fields was performed at random using the optical microscope, and ferrite mean particle diameter was measured by measuring and equalizing the ferrite particle size of ten per one visual field.

Ferrite particle size = 1/2 (major-axis + minor axis of a ferrite grain)

[0038] Moreover, in order to set ferrite mean particle diameter to 40 micrometers or less, whenever [before rolling / stoving temperature] is made into 1100 degrees C or more, and rolling reduction is rolled out at 950 degrees C of rolling finishing temperature 30% or more, and it is 0.3-100 degrees C/sec about the cooling rate after rolling finishing. What is necessary is just to adopt the approach of controlling.

[0039] Hereafter, although an example explains this invention to a detail further, the following example is not the thing of the property which limits this invention, and each thing marked and done to before and the after-mentioned main point for a design change is included in the technical range of this invention.

[0040]

[Example]

Using the steel materials of No.1-23 which show a component presentation in example 1 table 1, it was divided with deformation resistance as an index of formability-in-cold-forging evaluation, and generating working ratio was investigated. After the test piece for deformation resistance measurement

having ingoted the 50kg of the above-mentioned steel materials, respectively and carrying out hot forging to phi35mm, the normalize heat treatment (they are after 1-hour heating and air cooling at 900 degrees C) was performed, and measurement of crack generating working ratio used the test piece machined in the configuration shown in <u>drawing 1</u> using the round bar subsequently to phi20mmx30mm machined. however, to the test piece of No.14 and No.15 Solution treatment which carries out water cooling after replacing with the above-mentioned normalize heat treatment and heating at 900 degrees C for 1 hour is performed. To the test piece of No.16 and No.17 It replaced with the above-mentioned normalize heat treatment, after heating at 900 degrees C for 1 hour, it machined by having carried out air blast cooling, and the test piece of No.22 and No.23 machined by performing spheroidizing after the above-mentioned normalize heat treatment. It is divided with the value of deformation resistance and generating working ratio is shown in Table 1 with the rate of ferrite area and ferrite mean particle diameter of each steel materials.

[0041] [Table 1]

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7274	平均超锋(4年)	22	20	26	22	25	25	28	28	25	20	25	25	30	12	15	45	0	22	25	22	36	3	l	ı	
残りの	五 *	Ъ	م	Д	<u>a</u>	+	P+B	+	Д	m	P+B	P+B+K	P+B+M	Д,	P+B	<u>a</u>	В	щ	۵,	P+B		P	•	ı	ı	
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	かの街					Cr: 0.82	Mo: 0. 52	V:0.48	Nb: 0.035	Cr: 0. 97, V: 0. 10	Nb:0.020, Ca:0.005	Mo: 0. 20, Pb: 0. 15	Nb:0.031.T1:0.02	Ti:0.02	V:0.33.B:0.0012	Nb:0.035, Ti:0.03, B:0.0015	Mo: 0. 21	Cr:0.89.Mo:0.45							Cr:0. 99	・ナー・ナー・ファンファンファン・ファン・ファン・ファン・ファン・ファン・ファン・ファン・フ
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(電光)	Z	0.012	0.015	0.016	0.012	0.010	0.00	0.011	0.00	0.012	0.012	0.00	90.	9.00	0.012	0.019	0.012	0.010	0.008	0.012	0.011	100	000	000	0.010	
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成	n O	0.51	0.62	0.72	0.91	0.35	0.33	0.69	6.38	6.55	0.30	0.42	0.35	0.25		0.35	0.28	0.49	0.30	0.32	0.48	0.0	2	30.0	U.0.	1
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	ď	0.003	0.008	0.003	0.002	G02	0.002	200	200.00	. egs	0.002	36	0.002	0.002	90.0	U. UUZ	0.008					0.008	0 012	3 6	0.008	
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[0042] Deformation resistance [ in / as for SWRCH10 whose No.21-23 are the conventional material and whose No.21 are JIS steel and No.22, S45C balling-up material and No.23 are SCr420 balling-up material, and / in all / 60% of working ratio ] is 2 700Ns/mm. While being the following, crack generating working ratio is 60% or more, and is excellent in formability in cold forging. [0043] the steel materials which No.1-15 require for this invention -- it is -- any -- the above -- deformation resistance [ in / conventionally like steel / 60% of working ratio ] -- 700N/mm2 While

being the following, crack generating working ratio is 60% or more, and is excellent in formability in cold forging.

[0044] No.16 and No.17 are the examples of a comparison when the rate of ferrite area is too low, and deformation resistance is 2 700Ns/mm. While being above, crack generating working ratio is less than 60%, and formability in cold forging is scarce. No.18 are an example of a comparison when there are too many amounts of Si, and deformation resistance is 2 700Ns/mm. It is as large as the above and crack generating working ratio is also low. Although No.19 are an example of a comparison when there are too many amounts of P and crack generating working ratio is 60% or more, deformation resistance is 2 700Ns/mm. It is large with the above. No.20 are an example of a comparison when there are too many amounts of S, and deformation resistance is 2 700Ns/mm. Although it is the following, crack generating working ratio is low.

[0045] After ingoting 50kg of steel materials which show a component presentation in example 2 table 2, respectively and carrying out hot forging to phi65mm, the normalize heat treatment (they are after 1-hour heating and air cooling at 900 degrees C) was given, subsequently it machined and the test piece for thrust mold rolling fatigue tests whose machined surface granularity is 2S in phi60mmx5mm was produced. However, solution treatment which carries out water cooling to it after replacing with the above-mentioned normalize heat treatment and heating to the test piece of No.14 and No.15 at 900 degrees C for 1 hour was performed, and after replacing with the above-mentioned normalize heat treatment and heating at 900 degrees C to the test piece of No.16 for 1 hour, to it, it machined by having carried out air blast cooling, and to it, the test piece of No.22 and No.23 machined by performing spheroidizing after the above-mentioned normalize heat treatment.

[0046] Next, test pieces other than No.23 performed and carried out air cooling of the soft nitriding processing heated at 570 degrees C in the gas ambient atmosphere of RX gas:NH 3 = 1:1 for 8 hours. After the test piece of No.23 performed carburization processing of 3 hours at 925 degrees C and performed oil-quenching (130 degrees C), it performed tempering processing of 2 hours at 180 degrees C.

[0047] After performing the above soft nitriding processing or carburization processing, while measuring core part hardness and effective case depth hardended by carburizing treatment, a thrust mold rolling fatigue tester is used, and it is 2 4000Ns [/mm] planar pressure. The rolling fatigue life was measured. A measurement result is shown in Table 2 with the rate of ferrite area and ferrite mean particle diameter of each steel materials.

[0048]

[Table 2]

Tr.		00000		000000
転動酸物		2.2 2.8 2.8 2.0 2.0 2.0 3.0 3.0 3.0 3.0 3.0 3.0 3.0 3.0 3.0 3	0.1×10 0.6×10 2.0×10	0.9×10 1.4×10 1.2×10 1.1×10 0.7×10 0.8×10
有效硬化	(1) (三)	0.23 0.23 0.24 0.25	0.05 0.08 0.08 0.36	0.12 0.15 0.10 0.10 0.14 0.23
授	(元) (元)	235 235 212 212 212	120 154 154 275	218 208 220 222 222 180
7,7/1	+5.Jf2(全 (μ m)	252 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25	E	45 45 45 45 45 45 45 45 45 45 45 45 45 4
127	(28)	022023	0,5 0,0 0,0 0,0	10 70 55 60 75 80
	その他	Cr: 0. 97, V: 0. 10  Nb: 0. 020, Ca: 0. 005  Nb: 0. 031, Ti: 0. 02  V: 0. 33, B: 0. 0012	Cr: 0.99	Mo: 0.21 Cr: 0.35 Mo: 0.55 V: 0.45 Cr: 0.68
	Z	0.21 0.25 0.50 0.12 0.12	0.16	0.58
(無光)	z	0.012 0.012 0.008 0.008	0.011	0.012 0.005 0.010 0.001 0.005
成分組成 (質量%	1 V	0.035 0.053 0.035 0.032 0.028	0.021 0.028 0.032	0.032 0.015 0.001 0.030 0.016
政	n o	0.51 0.55 0.30 0.35 0.38	0.01	0.28 0.45 0.38 0.11
	S	0.005 0.001 0.004 0.008 0.008	0.013 0.015 0.005	0.005 0.008 0.008 0.008 0.008
	Ъ	0.003 0.005 0.002 0.002 0.008	0.008 0.012 0.008	0.008 0.008 0.005 0.002 0.002
	Mn	1.24 0.89 1.25 1.25 1.30	0.39	1.85 1.85 1.22 1.01 1.45
	Si	0.05		0.12 0.08 0.07 0.08 0.11
	S	0.19	202	0.19 0.12 0.18 0.15 0.07
	O N	-0074x	222	16 25 25 27 28
Þ	14	本発明例	統朱例	比较例

[0049] No.23 are the conventional carburization material which performed carburization processing to the JIS steel SCr420. Effective case depth hardended by carburizing treatment is 0.2mm or more, and, moreover, each steel for nitriding concerning this invention (No.1, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15) has the rolling fatigue life more than the above-mentioned carburization material (No.23) and an EQC while core part hardness is 200 or more Hv(s). If it puts in another way, the steel for soft nitriding of this invention is excellent in pitching-proof nature, and, moreover, its fatigue resistance is high. Each of SWRCH(s)10

(No.21) which are the conventional material, and S45C balling-up material (No.22) has low core part hardness, and its rolling fatigue life is short.

[0050] The rate of ferrite area is low, and No.16 are an example of a comparison when the mean particle diameter of a ferrite is too large, and its a rolling fatigue life is [ effective case depth hardended by carburizing treatment is 0.2mm or less, and ] short. No.24 are an example of a comparison when the mean particle diameter of a ferrite is too large, effective case depth hardended by carburizing treatment is 0.2mm or less, and its a rolling fatigue life is short. The mean particle diameter of a ferrite becomes large too much, No.25 have too few amounts of aluminum, and a rolling fatigue life is [ No.26 are an example of a comparison when there are too few amounts of N, and / effective case depth hardended by carburizing treatment is 0.2mm or less, and ] short [ 26 ]. They are an example of a comparison when there are too many amounts of Cu(s), the mean particle diameter of a ferrite becomes large too much, effective case depth hardended by carburizing treatment is 0.2mm or less, and a rolling fatigue life is short [ 27 ] while No.27 have low core part hardness. They are an example of a comparison when not containing Cu, No.28 have low core part hardness and its a rolling fatigue life is short. Thus, no examples of a comparison of No.16 and No.24-28 have enough pitching-proof nature, and are not so high as this invention steel. [ of fatigue resistance ]

[Effect of the Invention] Since this invention is constituted as mentioned above, even if it was the steel for soft nitriding excellent in formability in cold forging and was the case where it applied to components, such as a gearing which high planar pressure requires, sufficient pitching-proof nature will be demonstrated, and, moreover, fatigue resistance can also offer the high steel for soft nitriding.

[Translation done.]